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Reply to the Office Action dated April 12, 2010

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A display ~~of the type having both an activated, "on", state and an inactivated, "off", state, and being switchable between the two, which display incorporates comprising:~~

~~a capacitance sensor, able arranged to detect the near presence of a user, together with circuitry arranged to utilise the output of this sensor to effect activation of the display accordingly and including:~~

a first electrode defined by a frontmost electrode of the display, the frontmost electrode defining both a display electrode arranged to activate the display and a sensing electrode of the capacitance sensor to detect the presence of the user; and

a second electrode defined by one of a case of the display and a power terminal of a circuit arranged to drive or control the display.

Claim 2 (original): A display according to claim 1, in which the display comprises an electroluminescent display.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A display according to claim 1, in which the ~~the~~ capacitance sensor ~~comprises a pair of spaced electrodes and further includes~~ electronics arranged to measure the capacitance ~~of~~between the ~~pair~~first electrode and the ~~second~~electrode and to output a signal ~~in dependence thereon~~based upon the measurement of the capacitance.

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Claim 4 (currently amended): A display according to claim 2, in which the ~~electroluminescent display comprises a front~~ ~~the first electrode is~~ arranged to activate light-emitting areas of the electroluminescent display, ~~and in which one of the pair of electrodes of the capacitance sensor is the front electrode.~~

Claim 5 (currently amended) A display according to ~~claim 4~~claim 3, ~~in which the other of the pair of electrodes forms one of a case of the display and a power terminal of a circuit arranged to drive and control the display~~ ~~further comprising circuitry arranged to activate the display based upon the signal.~~

Claim 6 (currently amended): A display according to claim ~~5~~1, in which the power terminal is a ground terminal.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A display according to ~~claim 4~~claim 5, in which a diode is ~~provided~~ ~~arranged~~ to protect ~~either~~ the capacitance sensor ~~or the circuitry arranged to activate the display~~ or means to effect activation from a voltage present at the front electrode.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): A display according to claim 1, in which the capacitance sensor comprises a capacitance and the display is arranged to detect the time taken to charge the capacitance to a specific value.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): A display according to claim 8, in which the display is arranged to charge the capacitance at two or more charging rates.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): A display according to claim 9, in which the display is arranged to charge the capacitance at a first rate for a first period of time so as to charge the capacitance to close to a threshold voltage, followed by a second, significantly slower, rate, until the threshold voltage is reached.

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Claim 11 (withdrawn): A display according to claim 10, in which the display is arranged to detect a change in the time taken to reach the threshold voltage to indicate the presence of a user.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): A display according to claim 10, in which the display is arranged to adjust the first period of time by feedback from the time taken to charge the capacitance to the threshold voltage.

Claim 13 (currently amended): An electroluminescent display of the type having both an activated, "on", state and an inactivated, "off", state, and which is arranged to be switched between the two states, in which the display incorporates comprising:

a capacitance sensor comprising-including:

a pair of spaced electrodes and electronics arranged to measure the capacitance of the pair and to output a signal in dependence thereon, wherein one of the pair of electrodes is a front~~first~~ electrode defined by a frontmost electrode of the electroluminescent display and arranged to activate light-emitting areas of the electroluminescent display; and

the other~~a second~~ electrode of the pair forms~~defined by~~ one of a case of the electroluminescent display and a power terminal of a circuit arranged to drive and control the electroluminescent display; and

electronics arranged to:

measure the capacitance between the first electrode and the second electrode;

the electronics being further arranged to process the signal and to determine the near~~a~~ presence of a user;

provide a signal based upon the determination of the presence of a user;

and

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~~further to effect activation activate of the electroluminescent display
based upon the signal accordingly in dependence of the presence of the user.~~

Claim 14 (new): A display comprising:

a capacitance sensor arranged to detect a presence of a user and including a first electrode defined by a front electrode of the display; and
a protection member arranged to protect the capacitance sensor from an excessive voltage on the front electrode and including:

a first end connected to the front electrode of the display; and
a second end connected to at least one circuit element of the capacitance sensor.

Claim 15 (new): A display according to claim 14, wherein:

the capacitance sensor further includes a second electrode defined by one of a case of the display and a power terminal of a circuit arranged to drive or control the display; and
the front electrode defines both a display electrode arranged to activate the display and a sensing electrode of the capacitance sensor to detect the presence of the user.

Claim 16 (new): A display according to Claim 14, wherein the front electrode defines both a display electrode arranged to activate the display and a sensing electrode of the capacitance sensor to detect the presence of the user.